

## Camera Austria Award for Contemporary Photography by the City of Graz 2019 to Lebohang Kganye



Lebohang Kganye, *The Last Supper*, from the series: *Ke Lefa Laka: Heir-Story*, 2013. Inkjet print on cotton rag paper, 64 x 90 cm.

The jury of this year's Camera Austria Award for Contemporary Photography by the City of Graz:

Taco Hidde Bakker, freelance author, Amsterdam (NL)  
David Campany, curator, Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg (GB/DE)  
Julia Grosse, *Contemporary And (C&)*, Berlin (DE)  
Nina Strand, *Objektiv*, Oslo (NO)  
Reinhard Braun, publisher *Camera Austria International*, Graz (AT)

has bestowed the award to South African artist

### Lebohang Kganye

The jury founded their decision to honor Lebohang Kganye with this award on the following statement:

“Lebohang Kganye’s animated photography offers an inventive look into her own family’s histories, and by implication the wider history of the South Africa from before and during Apartheid. We find her work to be bold, serious and playful in equal measure, while also being aesthetically innovative and politically relevant. By unfixing and reimagining the family photo album, Kganye investigates the instability and unreliability of memory in relation to personal and collective narratives. In her project ‘Ke Lefa Laka: Her-Story’ (2013) she does so by channeling her late mother through found photographs, inserting herself alongside her in photographs, and acting out her mother while wearing her clothes. Her mother was important for Kganye, ‘because of Apartheid and the history of our country, there is an absence of fathers in a lot of black families. I was raised by women in that sense, because, you know, fathers and husbands were gone for multiple reasons.’ In the follow-up series ‘Ke Lefa Laka: Heir-Story’ (2013) she dresses

up as her grandfather, and through this act looks deeper into his opposition to Apartheid politics. She continues such explorations in her ongoing series ‘Reconstruction of a Family’ (2016–ongoing), where she tries to locate her family’s history and plays out the stories she has been told about her forebears. The jury considers Kganye’s work an important contribution to the global photographic scene and wishes this award to be an encouragement for her further artistic endeavours.”

The Camera Austria Award for Contemporary Photography by the City of Graz is bestowed every two years on an artist who has published a noteworthy contribution in the magazine *Camera Austria International*. The prize-money is Euro 15,000.

Lebohang Kganye’s work has been published in *Camera Austria International* No. 144/2018.



Lebohang Kganye, Kwana Germiston bosiu I, 2013. Inkjet print on cotton rag paper, 42 x 29.7 cm.



Lebohang Kganye, Ka mose wa malomo kwana 44 I, 2012. Inkjet print on cotton rag paper, 42 x 29.7 cm.

The Awardee:

**Lebohang Kganye**

born 1990 in Katlehong (ZA), is an artist living and working in Johannesburg (ZA). Kganye received her introduction to photography in 2009 at the Market Photo Workshop in Johannesburg, where she completed the Advanced Photography Programme in 2011. She also graduated with a degree in fine arts from the University of Johannesburg in 2016 and counts among a new generation of contemporary South African photographers. She was the recipient of the Tierney Fellowship Award in 2012, leading to her solo exhibition “Ke Lefa Laka” in Johannesburg. She was also awarded the Jury Prize at the Bamako Encounters Biennale of African Photography (ML) in 2015 and was the recipient of the Contemporary African Prize 2016 in Basel (CH). Kganye recently received the award for the Sasol New Signatures Competition 2017 in Pretoria (ZA), leading to a solo show in 2018. Her work forms part of several private and public collections, most notably the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pennsylvania (US) and the Walther Collection in Ulm (DE).

**Solo exhibitions**

2018 “Ke Sale Teng,” Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria (ZA); “Tell Tale,” Market Photo Workshop Gallery, Johannesburg (ZA)  
2016 Afronova Gallery at The Armory Show, New York (US); Festival Africolor, Université Paris 13, Paris (FR)  
2013 “Ke Lefa Laka,” Market Photo Workshop Gallery, Johannesburg

**Group exhibitions** (Selection)

2019 72 Gallery, Tokyo (JP); Photo Ireland Festival, Dublin (IE); The UPI Gallery, New York; 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Afronova Gallery, Industria, New York; Coda Paper Art 2019, Coda Paper Museum, Apeldoorn (NL); Wonder Photo Day, Taipei (TW); Beyond Boundaries, LensCulture Discoveries in Contemporary

Photography, Aperture Gallery, New York; “Who’s Looking at the Family, Now?,” Photo50 at London Art Fair, London (GB); Finalist exhibition of the Arte Laguna Prize, Arsenale, Venice (IT)  
2018 “Remembrance,” Rose Gallery, Santa Monica (US); “Africa State of Mind,” New Art Exchange, Nottingham (GB); “The Bricks that Build a Home,” The Migratie Museum, Den Haag (NL); “Not the Usual Suspects,” IZIKO South African National Museum, Cape Town (ZA); “Un air de famille” and “Parce que les Fantômes disparaissent au Lever du Jour,” H2M – Espace Contemporain, Bourg en Bresse (FR); “Sans tambour ni trompette – Cent ans de guerres,” Le Parvis centre d’art, Ibos (FR); “Faux Mouvement,” Centre Contemporain de Metz (FR); “Africa is No Island,” MACAAL, Marrakesh (MA); “Recent Histories: Contemporary African photography and video art in dialogue with African photography from the Walther Collection,” Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (NL); “Re\*Creation, Non-Work: Occupied by Leisure Time,” Fotograf Festival #8, Prague (CZ); 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Afronova Gallery, Somerset House, London (GB); Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition, Somerset House, London  
2017 “Tell Freedom. 15 South African Artists,” Kunsthall Kade, Amersfoort (NL); “RESIST(E),” Printemps Photographique Afrique du Sud, NEGPOS, Nîmes (FR)  
2016 “Give Me Yesterday,” Fondazione Prada, Milan (IT); “Recent Histories: New Photography from Africa,” Walther Collection Project Space, New York and Ulm (DE); “Studio Bamako” in the scope of European Month of Photography, Kehrler Gallery, Berlin (DE); “Photo Biennale, Cities and Memory,” Brandts, Odense (DK); “L’Autre Continent: Artistes, Femmes, Africaines,” Muséum d’histoire naturelle du Havre, Le Havre (FR)  
2015 Jury award “Coup de Coeur,” Rencontres de Bamako (ML); “The View from Here,” Tiwani Contemporary, London; “Now you see me, Now you don’t,” International Schiller Days, Mannheim (DE); “Trek, Following Journeys,” SMAC Gallery, Cape Town (ZA)



Lebohang Kganye, O emetse mohala, from the series: Reconstruction of a Family, 2016–ongoing. Inkjet print on cotton rag paper, 64 x 90 cm.

**Bibliography** (Selection)

*Le Métier de Photographe en Afrique. 10 Ans d’Afrique in Visu* (Paris: Clémentine de la Féronnière, 2017).  
*ELSE* (Lausanne: Musée de l’Elysée Lausanne, 2016).  
*L’autre continent. femmes, artistes, africaines* (Le Havre: Muséum de l’histoire naturelle du Havre, 2016).  
*Telling Time. Rencontres de Bamako Biennale Africaine de la Photographie 2015* (Heidelberg: Kehrler Verlag, 2015).  
*Eyes on, Eyes from Africa* (OFF the Wall Editions, 2015).  
*My Joburg* (Lyon: Éditions Fage, 2013).  
*Ke Lefa Laka* (Johannesburg: Market Photo Workshop, 2013).

The Award:

The Camera Austria Award for Contemporary Photography by the City of Graz was established in 1989 and is bestowed every two years on an artist who has published a noteworthy contribution in the magazine *Camera Austria International* and has made an important contribution to contemporary photography. The prize-money is Euro 15,000.

Previous recipients of the Camera Austria Award include:

2017: Jochen Lempert (DE); 2015: Annette Kelm (DE); 2013: Joachim Koester (DK); 2011: Heidrun Holzfeind (AT); 2009: Sanja Iveković (HR); 2007: Marika Asatiani (GE); 2005: Walid Raad (LB); 2003: Aglaia Konrad (BE); 2001: Allan Sekula (US); 1999: Hans-Peter Feldmann (DE), 1995: David Goldblatt (ZA); 1993: Seiichi Furuya (JP / AT); 1991: Olivier Richon (CH/GB); 1989: Nan Goldin (US).

The jury members:

**Taco Hidde Bakker**

works as a writer, editor, translator, researcher, and lecturer. His writings about art and photography have been published in (art-

ist’s) books and periodicals as *Camera Austria International*, *Foam Magazine*, *British Journal of Photography*, *The PhotoBook Review*, and others. His first volume of essays, *The Photograph That Took the Place of a Mountain*, was published by Fw:Books in 2018.

**David Campany**

is a writer and curator. His projects include *A Handful of Dust* (MACK, 2015), *The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip* (Aperture, 2014), *Walker Evans: The Magazine Work* (2014), *Jeff Wall: Picture for Women* (2010) and *Art and Photography* (2003). Currently, he is curating The Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie 2020, which will take place in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen und Heidelberg.

**Julia Grosse**

is a journalist, art historian and co-publisher and editor-in-chief of the art magazine *Contemporary And* (C&). She is also editor-in-chief of the recently launched magazine *Contemporary And América Latina*. Until 2013, she worked as an arts correspondent in London for *die Tageszeitung*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, *AD Magazine*, *SZ Magazin* as well as *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Grosse has published widely and is the co-editor of various books.

**Nina Strand**

is a photographer and author as well as the founder and editor of the Norwegian photography magazine *Objektiv*. Most recently, she published the artist’s books *Residency* (Subjektiv Press, 2019), *STAF-FET* (Objektiv Press, 2017), *Arbeid, Age before Beauty, Kunstnerlønn* (self-published, 2016) as well as *Dr. Strand*, a photo diary which was also presented as an exhibition in 2015. She is currently receiving a work grant from the Arts Council Norway (2012–20) and was supported by the Norwegian Photographic Fund in 2005 and 2015. Since 2007, her essays about photography are being regularly published in *IDEER* and *Dagbladet*.